

City Population Passes 60,000

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OIL HEARING SLATED TONIGHT

City Now Eighth In L. A. County

Torrance has become the eighth largest city in Los Angeles County, figures released last week by the County Regional Planning Commission revealed.

With a growth estimated in excess of 4000 since the first of the year, Torrance has climbed to a population of 61,390, according to the estimates of the county planners. At the same time, the county officials estimated that the population of Los Angeles County had risen to 5,032,069. This represents an increase of nearly one million persons since April, 1950, according to the county.

Torrance YMCA Planning Fund Meet Monday

Torrance YMCA Campaign Clean-up meeting is scheduled next Monday, at 6:30 p.m. dinner in the basement Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church. Ladies of the church are preparing the dinner.

The Rev. John Taylor will be the toastmaster of the meeting and will give the final inspirational message to send the workers off to clean up the 1955 YMCA campaign.

Sidney Staxrud, YMCA campaign chairman, will instruct the workers, giving them ideas for their sales talks. Stan Roberts, executive secretary of the Torrance YMCA, will show colored slides depicting the various activities of the Torrance "Y" as it serves the youth of the area.

3rd Man Held For Robbery Last Tuesday

A third man has been apprehended by Torrance Police in connection with the Tuesday night burglary of the Waltheria Liquor Store, 24241 Ward St.

Thomas Joseph Marsh, 26, of Gardena, was picked up at his sister's trailer home Thursday by Capt. Ernie Ashton. Lt. Swayne Johnson, Sgt. Percy Bennett, and Officer Miles Hamilton, and will be charged with armed robbery along with two other men picked up minutes after the burglary.

Also in County Jail are Arco Gene Ellison, 24, of Compton, and Otto Friedle, 23, of Whittier, who were picked up only shortly after the \$75 robbery at 190th and Western by Los Angeles Police officers. Capt. Ashton said these two men had confessed.

Preliminary hearings for the trio will be held on May 10. They held up Grant S. Stickney, clerk in the store, and got \$75 from the cash register.

Vandal Bends Gear

Some strong vandal broke into his car Thursday, breaking the steering wheel and bending the gear shift around the steering wheel, Harold Flacklen, of 4714 Cadison St., told Torrance police Thursday. The car was parked in the 1700 block on Manuel Ave.

Plans to build a two-story telephone switching center on Palos Verdes Blvd. at the Torrance Palos Verdes Estates boundary raised a storm of protest before the Torrance Planning Commission Wednesday night when residents of the newly constructed luxury home area behind the proposed building indicated that they didn't like any part of the proposal.

A number of petitions and individually written protests were submitted to the record of the meeting by Planning Commission Secretary George Powell

and nearly all made pointed reference to the fact that they had paid premium prices for view lots which now were threatened by the proposal for the commercial building. The proposal, submitted to the city by the General Telephone Co. in the form of a request for variance. Efforts to allay the fears that the building would present an eyesore in addition to cutting the view of a number of homesites, were made by several commissioners who asked telephone company officials if a single

Chamber Will Host Chemical Men Tomorrow

Chemical Progress Week will be launched locally tomorrow, when the Shell Chemical Corp. takes over the program at the May Chamber of Commerce Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the YWCA.

Entitled a "Salute to the Chemical Industry," the meeting will feature Maarten Voogd, manager of Shell Chemical plant in Torrance, and G. S. Williamson, superintendent. Voogd will make opening remarks, while Williamson is scheduled to demonstrate the processing of synthetic rubber.

Chamber Manager Tom V. Watson has announced that more than 100 Torrance area businessmen are expected to attend the affair. Table hosts for the breakfast include Nick Drale, John Ebbinghouse, Donald Armstrong, David Sowie, A. E. Thompson, Dr. Gerald Eastham, King Williams, Dick Eyle, Albert Isen, Paul Roettgen, Reed Parkin, and Bob Tolson.

The breakfast-meeting is expected to end around 8:30 a.m., according to Watson.

Police Hold Pair Wanted For Robbery

A 27-year-old Portland, Ore. man and a 15-year-old San Francisco boy were being held by Gardena Police last week in connection with robberies which included two unsuccessful attempts here recently.

David Rudolf Carriger, 27, was arraigned in South Bay Municipal Court on robbery charges Saturday, while the youth was turned over to juvenile authorities. They were picked up by the Valley division of the Los Angeles Police Thursday.

Police believed one of the two entered Russ's Market, 803 Sartori Ave., on April 20, pulled a knife and demanded money from Mrs. Russ Crose, who fled screaming into the back of the store, while the bandit disappeared out the front door.

Another robbery try at Clarence Barajas' Shoerthing Market, 1552 W. Carson St., was unsuccessful when Barajas' son came into the store with a shotgun and fired at the fleeing pair. Both carried knives.

Sailor Hurt In Accident

A 31-year-old Hawthorne man charged with felony drunk driving in connection with an April 22 accident which injured a Torrance sailor was released on \$1000 bail from Compton Municipal Court last week.

Jess H. Tiger was held after his car collided with one driven by Irwen Comer, 38, of 5531 Sunnyview Dr., at Normandie and Sepulveda. Comer received major head injuries, and a fractured rib and spine. He was treated at Corona Naval Hospital.

Passengers in Comer's car, all receiving minor injuries, were Glen and Juanita Odum, both of Lennox.

Thief Gets Hubcaps

Somebody made off with four hubcaps from his car, Ernest Gene Higgins, of 3307 Dalemead St., reported to Torrance police Thursday.



CAN'T HARDLY FIND THESE ANY MORE... Officials take a look at the oldest car yet brought to the local office of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Owner C. R. Brooks, of 22427 Moneta Ave., steers his 1910 Maxwell runabout, as Manager Leavitt Tudor checks the crank, and Examiner Paul H. Young inspects the motor. Young has owned the two-cylinder, nine-horsepower car since 1926, but only recently fixed it up, and plans to drive it in parades and on other occasions. He bought it from the janitor of Bloomington School, with whom he used to ride. The vehicle, which goes 20 miles per hour, will require a "horseless carriage" license.

Dr. Haas to Give Lecture On Teenagers

The final lecture in the "Understanding the School Age Child" series will be delivered tomorrow night by Dr. Robert B. Haas, head of education extension at UCLA, at the Crenshaw School Auditorium, 18620 Crenshaw Blvd.

Highlight of the observance was a message from President S. Clark Beise, specially recorded for the occasion, which paid

tribute to Giannini and described the day as one of re-dedication by staff members to the principles and ideals of the founder of the bank.

Giannini was born in California, at San Jose, on May 6, 1870. The anniversary of his birth is observed in all Bank of America offices and branches throughout the world as an occasion on which to honor his memory.

Bank Honors Its Founder

Brief ceremonies marking Founder's Day were held at the Torrance branch of Bank of America Friday as officers and staff under the direction of Dean L. Sears, manager of the branch, observed the 85th birthday of A. P. Giannini, founder of the statewide banking organization.

He has written a number of articles in both education and American literature fields. In 1952-53, he was United States Exchange Specialist to the city of Bremen, Germany, where he lectured and helped to develop the first teacher training for adults programs in that city.

He collects and plays ancient musical instruments. Admission to the lectures, sponsored by the Torrance Council PTA and the Adult Education Department, is free.

Boy Falls From Car, Receives Head Injuries

Trouble comes in doses, the F. E. Root family, of 18111 Ermanita Ave., found this week, as three-year-old Frankie Root fell from a car Saturday morning in the 1700 block on Elm Ave.

The boy fell from a car driven by his mother, Mrs. Colleen Root, and was rushed to the hospital with head injuries. The fall occurred as Mrs. Root was turning on to Carson St. Last week, Mrs. Root was cornered in her kitchen by the family dog, which was later diagnosed as rabid and died shortly afterward. The Root family and a neighbor girl, Peggy Butler, had to take rabies shots as a result.

Planners Face Oilmen Tonight

Something akin to an explosion in a fireworks factory is expected tonight when members of the Planning Commission open the first hearing of a city move to clean up the south Torrance oil fields by ordinance.

A four-point program for discussion has been outlined by George Powell, secretary to the Planning Commission, and other city officials.

Sand, Gravel Firm Gets OK From Planners

Application of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. for a variance to operate a dry mix cement facility at their south Torrance plant was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission here Wednesday night following a two-hour hearing on the matter.

Opposition to the variance was voiced by a number of residents living near the site, however, other living nearby and the board of directors of the Pacific Hills Homeowners Assn. publicly approved the plan.

In approving the variance, the Planning Commission set forth several conditions which would restrict the operation at the sand and gravel pit. Among the stipulations read into the variance were provisions for tree rows to screen the operation, painting of elevated hoppers to blend with the background, planting of open banks, precautions for keeping stockpiles moist and dust free, and other matters which will serve to reduce the nuisance potential of the plant.

All Commissioners at the meeting voted to approve the request, except Thirvin D. Fleetwood, who passed his vote.

In this measure, the city will seek to eliminate all derricks now in the south Torrance field. There are about 425 licensed wells in the field, according to city records, and approximately 800 of these have derricks over them.

Many operators are expected to object to this point in the oil proposals on the grounds that the production of the wells does not warrant the expenditure of money needed to remove the derricks. Some operators have estimated that it will cost about \$3000 to remove one of the wooden derricks.

Tonight's hearing has been scheduled by the Planning Commission at the request of the Torrance City Council in an effort to work out an effective oil ordinance which would clean up the fields, sumps, and well areas, and reduce the hazard to children of the area.

The meeting has been called for 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Torrance City Hall.

Young Bicyclist Hurt In Collision With Car

A Lomita boy was hurt Friday as a car collided with the bicycle he was riding on Narbonne Ave. near Lomita Blvd.

Wesley M. Kennedy, of 23748 Eshelman Ave., was treated by a private physician, with the extent of injuries unknown, after colliding with the car, driven by Harry W. Welch, 59, of Los Angeles.

Polio Shots to Resume Today?

The status of polio shots in Torrance was in doubt as the HERALD went to press, as no final decision had been reached on whether the Salk vaccine inoculations would be resumed today as originally announced.

Shots were supposed to be resumed at local schools today, but United States Surgeon General Leonard Scheele Saturday called for a halt to the shots pending a check on the safety of the vaccine. Dr. Roy O. Gilbert, county health officer, said shots would be resumed today unless word to the contrary was received by Dr. Malcolm Merrill, state director of public health.



MASONS START BUILDING... Following brief ceremonies members and leaders of Torrance Masonic Lodge and district officials broke ground for the new lodge building to be constructed at Plaza Del Amo and Cabrillo Saturday morning. Digging in with a gold-plated shovel are (left to right), Paul Thompson, Inspector for the District; Mark Wright, past master of the lodge and president of the Torrance Masonic Assn.; and Frank Schmidt, master of the Torrance Lodge.